BENGALURU, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2026 www.Bangaloremirror.com 16 Pages PRICE ₹4

Bangalore Mirror ON SUNDAY

TEMP Max 30 | Min 18 | Humidity 41% Mostly cloudy Sensex 82,814 | Nifty 25,571 | Gold 1,56,993 | Silver 2,52,042 | Dollar 90.73 | Euro 106.93 | GBP 122.30

SACRED SPACE

Shoot film or TV series scenes, documentary or social media reels inside temples only after getting official permission and paying a fee

PAGE 5

GET SET GO

India vs South Africa: How each team holds up; captain Suryakumar Yadav confident in his team; Pak, NZ gain 1 point each after washout

PAGE 9

REMAINS OF THE DAY: State struggles to process enormous amounts of trash we generate

E-WASTE IS PILING UP

Bengaluru generates 12,000 tonnes e-waste annually of which a mere 15% is scientifically processed and rest is dealt with by informal scrap dealers; as sale of electric vehicles climbs, problem to get more complicated

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

India's tech capital Bengaluru is generating close to 12,000 tonnes of electronic waste every year, yet only a fraction of it is scientifically processed. While Karnataka as a whole produces between 5 to 8 lakh tonnes of e-waste annually, barely 15% is managed through authorised recycling systems. The rest often ends up in informal scrap channels or is dumped, posing serious environmental and health risks in and around the city.

The state has authorised over 108 e-waste recycling units, most of them based in and around Bengaluru. However, the actual quantity of waste reaching these facilities remains far below capacity. Unlike wet and dry waste, e-waste is not collected door to door by civic bodies on a regular basis. This has resulted in old televisions, computers and gadgets being handed over to informal scrap dealers, who extract valuable materials like copper and circuit boards, leaving hazardous components to be discarded improperly.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 »

"Cities and rural areas do not have proper scientific systems for e-waste management. There is a need for awareness campaigns, training workshops and structured IEC programmes to educate citizens and stakeholders

—Karthik D, activist

Mind the gap

Of 74,000 tonne of biomedical waste state produces in a day, only 56,000 tonne is processed

Garima Prasher
garima.prasher@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Karnataka has a daily gap of more than 18,000 kg in the treatment of biomedical waste (BMW).

The total BMW generated in the state in 2024 was a little over 74,000 tonnes per day, and nearly 56,000 tonnes were treated, leaving a gap of 25% between generation and scientific disposal, a recent report by the Central Pollution Control Board has highlighted.

The report also shows that in the given year, 188 healthcare facilities in the state violated the Bio Medical Waste Management Rule, and show-cause notices were issued to 175 of them. However, Karnataka has slightly rectified the gap between generation and treatment & disposal. In 2023, the state had a gap of more than 28,000 kg per day in the treatment of this hazardous waste. The total BMW generated in the state was 74,000 tonne per day. However, only 45.7K tonne was treated (61.8%) at the 1,607 treatment facilities.

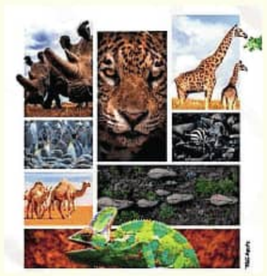
CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Hues of heritage

Internationally recognised visual artist Dr Akhter Husain presents Vedic Inspirations, a solo exhibition exploring India's spiritual and civilisational heritage through a contemporary visual language. **Where: Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath, Seshadripuram; When: February 28 to March 8, 10.30 am to 6 pm**

02 Wonders of the wild

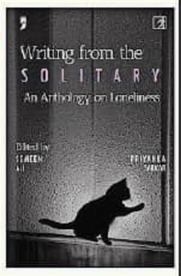


Bhartiya Mall of Bengaluru is hosting 'Enter the Wild,' an experiential event in collaboration with Animal Planet, inviting visitors to discover how animals survive in the wild through interactive games, activities, prizes, and engaging workshops. **Where: Bhartiya Mall of Bengaluru; When: February 22, 2 pm to 8 pm**

03 Craft haven

An exhibition jointly organised by Grand Flea Market and Indian Artisans Bazaar showcases Indian traditional and modern handicrafts, home décor items, and traditional attire from various states — all under one roof. **Where: Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath, Seshadripuram; When: Until March 1**

04 Solitude in words



Atta Galatta is hosting a book discussion centered on the anthology Writing from the Solitary: An Anthology on Loneliness. The event features the book's editors in conversation about the profound and often silent experience of loneliness. **Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar; When: Feb 22, 4 pm**

05 Rhythm rising

SOCIAL will host No Mercy, featuring SCARLETT (Live), GNRØ, and Fhiga, a line-up presenting hard techno through a mix of live performances and DJ sets. **Where: Koramangala SOCIAL; When: Feb 22, 8 pm**

BBP's vulture breeding centre gets clearance

Breeding centre gets regulatory nod from authorities to kick off operations; BBP is following up with zoo authority to take project forward, says Karnataka Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife)

Garima Prasher
garima.prasher@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The much-awaited vulture breeding centre at Bannerghatta Biological Park (BBP) finally appears to have all approvals in place to become operational. The Karnataka Forest Department (KFD) has also received the Supreme Court's nod to go ahead with the project. According to KFD, the official final status of the centre will be clear soon. "As we are told, the technical committee of the Central Zoo Authority (CZA) has approved the project. There was a delay due to an interim order passed by the Supreme Court in 2023. However, we now have SC's clearance as well. BBP is following up with CZA to take the project forward and start the centre," said Kumar Pushkar, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) and Chief Wildlife Warden of Karnataka.

Notably, the Department had filed an interlocutory application with the apex court last year, based on a previous order by the SC stating that any establishment in a protected area must obtain the apex court's approval. "Following the SC's clearance, we are awaiting official papers from CZA, which should arrive by the end of this week. Once we have the permission letter, birds will be brought in from the Pinjore Vulture Conservation Breeding Centre," added Pushkar.

The centre at BBP, which was ready in 2022 itself, has two aviaries to house captive vultures for breeding. As per the project plan, once the birds lay eggs, the eggs will be moved to a brooder unit where they will be kept under regulated temperatures. After the eggs hatch, the young ones will be taken care of at the centre till they are ready to be released into the wild.

Breeding centre at BBP is part of govt's action plan to tackle dwindling population of vultures (File photo)

"The breeding centre now will come under the definition of 'zoo'. The process to bring the birds from Pinjore was completed long ago. They also have the birds available. The agreement was made to send 35 birds from three different species, which remains the same," said Pushkar. Notably, the Indian government in 2020 released the 'Action Plan for Vulture Conservation in India 2020-2025' owing to the dwindling population of various vulture species. The plan recommended the setting up of vulture hubs in each state in the country, including Karnataka. The centre at BBP is an outcome of the action plan.

However, the project has hit multiple roadblocks since work on it started in September 2021. The centre was first expected to be ready by May 2022. However, the deadline was pushed multiple times and was finally met only by early 2023. Later, the change in the definition of zoos under the Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Act of 2022, which came into force on April 1, 2023, delayed the project further. The forest department then had to wait for permission from CZA to get the project started.

Centre at BBP has two aviaries to house captive vultures for breeding and brooder unit where eggs will be kept under regulated temperatures; once eggs hatch, young ones will be taken care of at centre till they are ready to be released into wild

Unclaimed two-wheelers to be auctioned at KS Layout Police Station

Vehicles left for over one year without identified owners to be auctioned off in bid to clear pending property

The KS Layout Police Station has announced a public auction of 24 unclaimed two-wheelers that were seized in connection with various cases and remain without identified rightful owners for more than a year.

According to police officials, the vehicles, comprising different models of motorcycles and scooters, have been lying at the station premises after efforts to trace their owners yielded no response.

Following due legal procedure, the court has granted permission for the disposal of the vehicles through a public auction. The auction is scheduled to be held on February 24, 2026, at 10 am, within the premises of the KS Layout Police Station.

Officials stated that the move is aimed at clearing pending property and ensuring better space management at the station.

Interested buyers have been invited to take part in the auction process. Police said the auction will be conducted in accordance with court orders and existing rules governing the disposal of unclaimed property. **— BMB**

Waste doesn't end up at 108 facilities in state

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"E-waste from homes and shops is collected and handed over to authorised recyclers, usually in association with NGOs once a year," said a senior officer underlining the limited frequency of structured collection drives.

Experts warn that the challenge is no longer confined to metros. With increasing gadget penetration, even rural Karnataka is witnessing a rise in discarded electronics. Gram panchayats lack dedicated systems to collect and process e-waste, leading to indiscriminate dumping. Bengaluru's expanding consumption patterns are also influencing nearby districts, adding pressure on existing recycling infrastructure.

Future threat

The rapid growth of electric vehicles (EV) could further complicate the situation. EV sales in 2024-25 have risen by 15.68 per cent, and experts caution that battery disposal will soon emerge as a major concern. Without clear systems for collection and scientific treatment, local bodies could face an additional burden. "Cities and rural areas do not have proper scientific systems for e-waste management. There is a need for awareness campaigns, training workshops and structured IEC programmes to educate citizens and stakeholders," said Karthik D, an activist.

Specialists say Bengaluru needs more drop boxes across wards, skilled manpower for processing, and incentives for start-ups in recycling technology. Workshops for electronic repair shop owners and sustained public awareness campaigns could help divert waste into authorised channels. Unless the city strengthens its collection network and builds public participation, Bengaluru's mounting e-waste may soon outpace its capacity to manage it responsibly.

Vehicles inspected under special drive against drug trafficking

In a bid to curb the inflow of narcotic substances into the city, a special operation was conducted in the early hours of February 21, 2026, along Tumakuru Road, one of Bengaluru's key entry points.The inspection was conducted between 4 am and 10.30 am, during which a total of 253 government and private buses entering Bengaluru from other districts and neighbouring states were thoroughly checked. Police teams examined luggage compartments and passenger belongings to detect any illegal transportation of narcotic substances and other suspicious items. Officials said the coordinated effort forms part of intensified surveillance measures at city entry points to prevent drug trafficking and ensure public safety. **— BMB**

NCFE hosts graduation ceremony

The National Centre for Excellence, Indiranagar, hosted its Grade 10 Graduation Ceremony with dignity and enthusiasm. The event began with a ceremonial welcome and procession, followed by the lighting of the lamp, symbolising knowledge and wisdom. The Principal's welcome address and the oath-taking ceremony underscored values of leadership, responsibility, and integrity. The programme featured choir performances, vision and valedictory addresses, and heartfelt student reflections.

Outstanding achievements were recognised, while teachers and parents shared emotional tributes. The ceremony concluded with memoir distribution, group photographs, and a recessional march, marking a proud and inspiring farewell for the graduating class. **— BMB**

B.Com student dies by suicide at home

A 20-year-old B.Com student allegedly died by suicide at his residence in Lottegollahalli under the jurisdiction of the Sanjaynagar Police Station on Friday night. The deceased, identified as Hemanth, was a second-year B.Com student at a private college in Malleswaram. He was the son of Chandru, who served as a Personal Assistant to former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai.

According to police, the incident occurred while his parents and other family members were at home and preparing to leave for Tirupati the following day. Family members reportedly found Hemanth hanging from a ceiling fan in his room on the second floor of the house.

If you or someone you know is struggling with suicidal thoughts, reach out to Sahai helpline at 080 65000111, 080 65000222

Police said he later spoke to a friend over the phone late at night before switching off his mobile phone.

A case of unnatural death has been registered, and further investigation is underway. **BMB**

Vendor held for sexual assault on minors

Anekal police officials arrested a 65-year-old roadside vendor on Saturday following allegations of sexual harassment involving at least four minor girls. The accused allegedly used his stationery stall as a front to lure children under the pretext of giving them chocolates. He has been identified as Krishnamurthy, a resident of Anekal.

The case came to light after a second-standard student reported being inappropriately touched by the vendor on Friday. After hearing the child's account, her parents immediately approached the police. Based on the complaint, Anekal police registered a case under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and took Krishnamurthy into custody.

Further investigation revealed a disturbing pattern, with police stating that he allegedly targeted three other girls during early morning hours after they were dropped near school. Officials said he exploited children's trust by offering sweets to isolate them. He is currently in judicial custody as investigations continue, and police are gathering additional evidence and statements. **BMB**

Stone attack leaves wife dead, husband missing

A 21-year-old homemaker was allegedly murdered by her husband following a quarrel over suspected infidelity at Kullegowdanapalya, under the Kaggalipura police station limits in Bengaluru South district, on Friday night.

The deceased has been identified as Sinchana (21), while the accused, her husband Renukaiah, is currently absconding. Police said Renukaiah, who had been employed at a private firm, had recently quit his job. The couple were living in a rented house in the locality.

According to police officials, Sinchana suspected her husband of having an illicit relationship with her sister-in-law, which reportedly led to frequent disputes between them. On Friday night, the argument escalated into a heated confrontation outside their residence. In a fit of rage, Renukaiah allegedly picked up a stone and smashed it on Sinchana's head, killing her on the spot before fleeing.

Neighbours alerted the police, who rushed to the scene and shifted the body for post-mortem. A murder case has been registered, and a manhunt is underway. Police said efforts are ongoing to trace the accused, and further inquiries are continuing intensively. **BMB**

BJP MLA caught in graft trap

Lokayukta police on Saturday said they caught BJP MLA Chandru Lamani allegedly accepting a Rs 5 lakh bribe.

The trap was laid by the Gadag Lokayukta police based on a complaint filed by a contractor.

"Today, a successful trap was laid by the Gadag Lokayukta police station. The accused public servant was caught while accepting Rs 5 lakh," officials said.

The complainant, Vijay Pujar, is a Class-I contractor from Chinchali in this district.

Lokayukta officials said the alleged bribe demand was linked to works under the Minor Irrigation Department, including the construction of retaining walls along a road.

"The accused had demanded Rs 11 lakh from the complainant to execute the work. During the trap, Rs 5 lakh was accepted," officials said. **PTI**

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When data flips the switch

Schoolgirl's streetlight survey shines spotlight on dark lanes, driving quick civic fixes and safer neighbourhood nights

Iffath Fathima
iffath.fathima@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

A streetlight audit conducted in the residential neighbourhood around GHS Police Colony has demonstrated how structured civic data can translate into tangible improvements in public safety.

An eight-grade student, Shahnaaz, a City Changemaker from the locality, used a 15–30 minute chatbot-based audit tool to assess lighting conditions in her neighbourhood. The exercise involved documenting functioning and non-functioning streetlights, identifying poorly lit stretches and dark spots, and examining how inadequate lighting affected residents, especially women and children, after nightfall.

"The streetlight audit was conducted using a 15–30 minute chatbot-based tool in my local neighbourhood. During the audit, I recorded the number of functioning and non-functioning streetlights, their placement, and the presence of dark spots or poorly lit stretches. The assessment also examined the impact of lighting conditions on public safety, particularly for women and children during night-time hours. The street audit enabled the clear identification of gaps in lighting infrastructure. Based on this documentation, I reported a non-functioning streetlight, which was subsequently repaired," said Shahnaaz.

The audit revealed that broken streetlights and dimly lit areas created black spots that reduced visibility and heightened a sense of insecurity. Residents reported feeling less confident using public spaces at night. After the complaint was formally filed with the GBA, the identified streetlight was repaired. Authorities also addressed another black spot in the area, improving overall lighting conditions across the locality.

Structured neighbourhood mapping exposes faulty fixtures, prompting municipal intervention and enhancing neighbourhood well-being

Shahnaaz is a Solve Ninja, part of a growing network of 9.47K young changemakers who identify real-world community problems and take structured, measurable action, from climate and waste management to public health and civic issues. Collectively, Solve Ninjas have taken 47.5K actions and invested 134K hours, documenting impact and building leadership skills through hands-on problem-solving. Explaining the broader significance of such initiatives, Kuldeep Dantewadia, CEO of Reap Benefit, which runs the Solve Ninjas programme, said the impact of youth-led civic action can be measured at multiple levels.

"When we look at measuring impact, it is important for us to assess it at three levels. The first is at the individual level. It is extremely important for young people between the ages of 13 and 23 to experience changemaking first-hand. When solving local community issues, young people need a sense of self-belief and a sense of possibility, the confidence that they can bring about change. Beyond belief and agency, this experience also leads to tangible skill-building. We have seen more than 70% of our Ninjas report that they have built real-world skills through their actions."

He added, "Over the years, we have recorded more than 4 lakh data points and over 3,000 local solutions that have emerged from the community. Some of these solutions are experimental, while others have gone on to scale. The third level is what we call systemic intervention. Our work has been integrated across various state government departments, including education and municipal bodies."

Common areas ownership: Flat-buyers seek clarity

GBA calls land non-transactional, but residents demand complete ownership shift to associations

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Homebuyers, who have been running from pillar to post over the years, have expressed mixed reactions to the latest development concerning their long-pending demand to transfer ownership of common areas to registered flat owners' associations. They have urged officials of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) to remove the landowner's name from the e-khata or specify that ownership of the common areas has been transferred to the respective flat owners' association. Recently, Dhananjaya Padmanabhachar submitted an application under the RTI Act, 2005, seeking a copy of the action taken report on a letter submitted by the Karnataka Home Buyers Forum on July 3, 2025, regarding land khata mutation. Padmanabhachar clarified that flat owners' rights would be affected as GBA officials had failed to take steps to transfer ownership of the land to the flat owners' association.

In response to the application, the Deputy Commissioner (Revenue) of the GBA stated that the authority had taken measures to classify the land on which flats are constructed as non-transactional. However, Dhananjaya Padmanabhachar, convenor of the Karnataka Homebuyers Forum, said GBA revenue officials should remove the previous landowner's name from the land e-khata PID document and transfer it to the flat owners' association, in accordance with Section 17 of RERA. "When the apartment requires redevelopment, the association can sign the papers on behalf of the flat owners," he said.

Yatish M opined that builders construct residential buildings on revenue land but fail to transfer land ownership to the registered Residents' Welfare Association (RWA) or Apartment Owners' Association after completion. "This creates serious legal and financial risks for apartment purchasers, who may unknowingly face consequences due to fraudulent actions by the builder," he said.

Veteran Commander Surendra said the GBA's decision to classify the land khata of apartment complexes as non-transactional was a welcome step. "However, this is not a complete solution. The following steps are needed to safeguard the interests of homebuyers: convey the title of the project land to the Association of Owners/Allottees, as mandated under Section 11 of KOFA 1972 and Section 17 of RERA 2016; subsequently transfer the land khata in the name of the association; and enter the project land khata details in the individual apartment e-khata, in addition to UDI/UDS details. Once all these actions are completed, the issue will be resolved," he said.

Karnataka among top 5 states in biomedical waste generation

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

CPCB 's report also highlights that Karnataka is one of the top five states in biomedical waste generation. Currently, there are 27 Common Bio-Medical Waste Treatment Facilities (CBWTF) in the State, and 55,923 kg per day of biomedical waste is treated and disposed of through common biomedical waste treatment facilities. As many as 1,581 healthcare facilities in the state have captive treatment facilities and 765.004 kg per day of biomedical waste are treated and disposed of through these facilities. Moreover, 3,783 occupiers are currently in operation without applying for authorisation, and 16,595 occupiers have installed the liquid waste treatment facility.

There is a slight improvement in the number of common biomedical waste treatment facilities in the state. Karnataka now has 27 facilities as compared to 26 common treatment facilities in 2023. The central pollution watchdog has recommended that the usage of captive treatment facilities, including deep burial pits, should be restricted where common biomedical waste treatment facilities are accessible. Moreover, any incidents or reports of illegal dumping or open burning of waste and non-complying facilities should be acted upon quickly, and appropriate action may be initiated

"The state pollution control board should also conduct a gap analysis with respect to the generation of biomedical waste and available treatment capacity to check adequacy of available treatment capacity of common biomedical waste treatment facilities. State Boards should closely monitor or track the movement of BMW generated by healthcare facilities and ensure that all these establishments adopt the bar coding system as per the Biomedical Waste Management Rules," the CPCB stated in the report.

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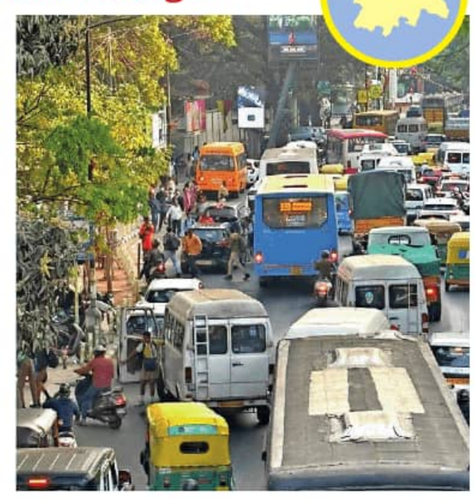

Frequent illegal parking by school vans and private vehicles in the bus bay outside Bishop Cotton Boys' School is forcing BMTC buses to stop mid-road, risking passenger safety and requiring stricter monitoring by traffic police and BMTC officials.

Pedestrian obstruction
Brigade Road

A shop on Brigade Road has encroached upon the footpath, obstructing pedestrians and warranting immediate police action.

Public Nuisance
Outer Ring Road

On the service road between Panathur Underbridge and Prestige Tech Park a makeshift vehicle, without a number plate, is parked on the pavement, blocking pedestrians from using it.

Byrathi Basavaraj custody extended

A court in Karnataka on Saturday remanded BJP MLA Byrathi Basavaraj, who represents Bengaluru's KR Puram constituency, to judicial custody until February 26, in connection with a murder case.

Basavaraj was arrested in connection with the murder of a man and was questioned by the Criminal Investigation Department (CID).

The order was passed by the 42nd Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate (ACJM) Court. Basavaraj will be transferred to the Bengaluru Central Prison on the outskirts of the city.

Basavaraj, an accused in the murder of rowdy-sheeter Shivaprakash, alias Biklu Shiva, was taken into custody upon his arrival at Kempegowda International Airport after the Karnataka High Court rejected his anticipatory bail plea.

The Supreme Court also refused to grant him relief. The BJP has alleged foul play and claimed that the Karnataka government targeted him for political reasons.

BJP State President and MLA BY Vijayendra visited Basavaraj's residence and stated that he had helped the party come to power in Karnataka by quitting the Congress.

He told supporters that his own family had allegedly faced false cases in the past and claimed that Basavaraj had been falsely implicated in the present case.

The murder of Biklu Shiva occurred on July 15, last year in the Halasuru area of Bengaluru.

Investigators have reportedly gathered key evidence against the MLA. CID sources said the custodial interrogation of Basavaraj was necessary to further the investigation and uncover the wider conspiracy behind the murder.

Basavaraj has been charged with murder and named as the fifth accused in connection with the killing of Biklu Shiva, who was hacked to death in front of his residence.

The Bharatinagar Police in Bengaluru registered an FIR against the BJP MLA based on a complaint filed by the victim's mother.

The case later took a dramatic turn when the deceased's mother claimed she had never mentioned the name of the BJP MLA in her complaint and did not know how his name had been included in the FIR.

However, police said they subsequently established Basavaraj's links with the prime accused in the case.

Basavaraj had direct links to rowdy Jagadeesh, alias Jagga, the prime accused in the case, and had met Biklu Shiva several times prior to the killing. **–IANS**

Lights, camera... not without clearance

Authorities mandate prior clearance and fees for recordings across Karnataka's top revenue-generating shrines amid digital surge

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

New measures aim to protect ritual sanctity from unchecked digital content creation

Sanctum visuals barred completely, committees empowered to seize gadgets as authorities tighten oversight across high-revenue heritage sites

If you are planning to shoot a film scene, serial episode, documentary or even a social media reel inside a temple, you will now have to factor in official permission and a fee. The Muzrai Department has made it mandatory to obtain prior approval and pay prescribed charges for any kind of video recording in all A- and B-grade temples across Karnataka. Officials have warned that if the sanctity of temples is disturbed or religious sentiments are hurt, strict action and penalties will follow.

Though the policy may sound new, the department says the rules have been in place for years. Guidelines were first issued in 2003 and later reinforced in 2012. However, implementation had remained lax. In many cases, film and television crews would erect sets and then seek formal approval. With the explosion of smartphones, reels and independent digital content, unauthorised filming has increased sharply. Temple premises have increasingly become backdrops for YouTube channels, promotional videos and commercial shoots, often without permission. Authorities say some content has projected temples in a manner that undermines their spiritual atmosphere.

To curb this trend, the department has now directed all temple management committees to strictly enforce a detailed 15-point guideline. One of the key rules is a complete ban on filming inside the sanctum sanctorum or of the main deity. Even when permission is granted, crews must adhere to temple customs, dress codes and rituals, and ensure that devotees are not inconvenienced. "The sanctum and the main idol cannot be filmed under any circumstances. Those who receive permission must respect traditions and maintain decorum," said B. Sharat, Commissioner of the Muzrai Department.

Karnataka has 34,563 Muzrai temples under its jurisdiction. Among them, 205 are classified as A-grade temples with annual revenue exceeding Rs 25 lakh. Another 193 fall under B-grade temples, earning between Rs 5 lakh and Rs 25 lakh annually. The remaining 34,105 temples are categorised as C-grade, with revenue below Rs 5 lakh. The current fee mandate applies specifically to A- and B-grade temples, where footfall and commercial interest are significantly higher.

Temple authorities have also been empowered to act against violations. If anyone is found filming without approval, officials can seize equipment, delete the recorded footage and initiate further action as per the rules. "If we detect unauthorised shooting, we will immediately confiscate the devices, erase the footage and return them. Rules will be enforced strictly," said Rudresh, Executive Officer of a major city temple.

The department insists that the move is not meant to discourage genuine artistic or devotional work. Instead, it aims to strike a balance between creative expression and the preservation of religious sanctity. With temples increasingly becoming visual landmarks in the age of digital content, the message from the Muzrai Department is clear: devotion first, documentation later and only with due permission.

Watt a costly current

Power consumers could be facing a fresh tariff hike from April, as five state-run power distribution companies have reported a revenue shortfall of Rs 4,900 crore in the last financial year and approached the regulator seeking compensation through revised rates. The proposal has been submitted to the Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission, with the discoms arguing that actual revenue fell short of projections, while administrative and operational expenses exceeded estimates. If cleared, the revision will come in addition to the routine annual increase, raising fears of a double blow for households and businesses.

Sources said discoms, including BESCOM, have proposed a hike of 91–99 paise per unit despite an existing multi-year tariff plan for 2025–28. If approved, consumers could pay about 53 paise more per unit this year. The Commission will decide after reviewing public and industry feedback. **–BMB**

Man held for fake campaign against KAS officer

In an alleged online defamation case, Bengaluru City Cyber Crime Police on Saturday arrested another person for circulating fake documents and morphed audio clips on social media to defame senior KAS officer and former MUDA Commissioner DB Natesh.

Vinod BN of Bogadi, Mysuru, has been arrested in connection with the case. Earlier, activist Snehmayi Krishna was taken into custody.

Senior KAS officer and former MUDA Commissioner DB Natesh filed a complaint on February 18, 2026, alleging that morphed photos, forged documents and a fake audio clip were circulated on Facebook to defame him.

Police said the incident stemmed from a business rivalry, with Vinod allegedly sharing false information with Krishna. Vinod has been arrested and will be produced before court. Krishna was earlier arrested, later released on bail, and further investigation is underway. **–BMB**

Decked out for city sights

Double-decker bus to facilitate guided city tours receives positive response; Managing Director of KSTDC sheds light on details about service in conversation with BM

Vasudha Zora
mybangaloremirror
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

KAUSHIK JN

KSTDC's Ambari service offers open rooftop double-decker bus tours for passengers to enjoy local sightseeing

Ambari buses by Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation (KSTDC), which restarted on January 21 this year for passengers to enjoy local sightseeing on open rooftop double-decker buses, have a lot of facilities and a few downsides too. Bangalore Mirror spoke to Managing Director of KSTDC, Prashant Mishra, to understand more about the service. Excerpts from the interview:

Are drivers permitted to collect on-site cash directly? How is it ensured that all payments are officially logged in the system and not treated as unrecorded personal 'bribes'?

At the outset, we wish to clarify that tickets are issued only at designated boarding points and through authorised booking channels. No tickets are issued at intermediate stops, and drivers or onboard staff are strictly prohibited from collecting cash at any point during the tour. All bookings are officially recorded, monitored, and accounted for on a daily reconciliation basis.

How regularly are audits conducted on Ambari ticketing? When was the last one done, and is passenger count matched with the tickets sold post-trip to prevent revenue leakage?

Ticket sales are monitored daily through system-generated reports. Passenger counts are cross-verified with tickets sold to prevent revenue leakage. Periodic internal audits are conducted by the competent authority to ensure compliance with established norms. Cash collection during the tour is not permitted under any circumstances.

What is the formal complaint process for issues like missing guides, matched with tickets irregularities and typical resolution timeline?

Efforts are made to implement an audio guide system to ensure uninterrupted sightseeing narration. Any deviation is treated as a serious misconduct and attracts strict disciplinary action as per KSTDC service rules. Passengers may register complaints or feedback through the official email at info@kstdc.co, KSTDC helpline or reception counters. All complaints are acknowledged and resolved within a stipulated time frame as per internal service standards.

Ambari buses are maintained through operational checks to ensure schedules, service quality, and transparency, with supervisory inspections and audit reviews supplementing routine internal checks, according to KSTDC Managing Director

Are CCTV cameras installed inside Ambari buses and verified working on every trip? What other protocols apply during peak tourist hours?

Ambari buses are equipped with CCTV cameras, emergency exits, and standard safety features. KSTDC remains committed to providing a safe, transparent, and enjoyable tourism experience for all passengers. Vehicles are checked regularly to ensure all safety and surveillance systems are functional, especially during peak tourist hours.

How popular has the service been since its January 2026 relaunch? What operational checks maintain schedules from Town Hall to Vidhana Soudha?

Since its launch, the Ambari service has received encouraging patronage and positive feedback. Operational checks are in place to maintain schedules, service quality, and transparency. Oversight mechanisms include supervisory inspections and audit reviews beyond routine internal checks.

More about Ambari buses

- Facilities for online and on-site ticket bookings available
- One-hour tour covers Town Hall, Cubbon Park, Vidhana Soudha and nearby areas, with daily rides from 10.30 am to 8.30 pm
- Double-decker buses equipped with CCTV, conductor guide, safety measures and open-air seating for panoramic views
- Provides explanation of city monuments, history and architecture, showcasing Bengaluru beyond its software hub image

GBA mulls steps to revive Indira Canteens

With complaints of poor quality food, foul smell and poor surroundings keeping people away from several Indira Canteens, the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has begun discussions on steps to attract more visitors. GBA Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao said issues have been flagged at outlets. He has directed officials to inspect the present condition of canteens and review food quality, adding that while the meals are generally good, there is scope for improvement. A detailed discussion with zonal commissioners will be held on how to improve quality and increase public turnout.

The civic body has also taken note of complaints that garbage trucks are parked near some canteens, leading to unpleasant smell. To address this, officials have been instructed to identify over one acre of land in each Assembly constituency to set up dedicated waste transfer centres. **-BMB**

Steel barricades installed at key metro stations

With a rise in suicide attempts and incidents of passengers jumping onto tracks, the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited has stepped up safety measures across Namma Metro stations. Following the high footfall interchange at Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Station, steel barricades have now been installed at other busy stations including Sir M Visvesvaraya Station, Indiranagar Metro Station, KR Pura Metro Station and Benniganahalli Metro Station. Majestic, which handles nearly 2.5 lakh commuters daily, was the first to see the rollout. Officials say the move aims to prevent track intrusions and manage crowd surges during peak hours, especially at stations that see over 35,000 to 55,000 passengers every day. Officials said that though CCTV surveillance and security staff are in place, more than 10 suicide attempts were reported in 2025, prompting urgent intervention. **-BMB**

Following death of pet dog, owner installs park bench dedicated to his memory

Pet's memory lives on through tribute

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A pet parent in Bhartiya City has turned personal grief into a public space of healing by installing a pet memorial bench at Nikoo Homes 1 on Thanisandra Main Road.

Divya, who welcomed Toughy into her life on December 3, 2015, says everything changed the day he walked in. "I had zero experience with animals. We grew up together. He taught me patience, compassion, and how to love without conditions," she recalled.

Divya said she was once rejected by a well-known shelter because she was single. "They said singles aren't considered. They never even met me. Around the same time, Toughy was about to be given up by a family due to a landlord's no-pet rule. I found him through an online listing. I'm grateful those rejections happened. They brought him to me," she said.

Toughy turned 10 on October 22, 2025. Just weeks later, he was diagnosed with leptospirosis and passed away on November 25. "I never imagined grief could hurt this deep. My sleep broke. My routine vanished. Even stepping outside was hard," said Divya.

Yet there was one spot she kept returning to—a large shady tree inside the gated community where Toughy sat each day. Residents fondly came to call it 'Toughy's Tree'.

Bench installed in memory of Toughy

"I knew I had to do something there. With support from neighbours, I sponsored and installed a pet memorial bench under the tree. Painted in his favourite colours with his name and paw prints, the bench was hand decorated by community members. Every stroke had love and tears," she said.

Today, the bench stands as more than a tribute. Children climb over it, pets nap beneath it, and residents gather to sit and talk. Most recently, the community even celebrated Valentine's Day near 'Toughy's Tree'. "Seeing people gather there brings me peace," Divya expressed.

She has also installed a 'Ball Bank' at the pet park, filled with Toughy's old balls for other dogs to play with. Now,

Memorial bench has evolved into living community space; once a tribute, now it is place where kids play, pets rest and residents gather

Divya hopes to inspire other pet parents to create similar memorials. She has requested permission from the management for three more benches in the Central Park and is awaiting approval.

"To every grieving pet parent, I say sponsor something in their name. A bench, a tree, anything. When you give them space in the world, they give you healing," said Divya.

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BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

STORY BEHIND THE PHOTO

NATURE'S LIVING ALLIANCE

Our reader shares a striking image of a hollow thorny plant engaged in an ancient symbiotic relationship with ants, where survival hinges on precise temperature balance. Sheltered within the plant's stem, the ants remain protected from heat and swiftly emerge to defend their host from grazing threats—an elegant exchange of shelter for protection that highlights nature's finely tuned partnerships.

The picture was clicked by reader **S Sampath Kumari**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com**

60% of Bengaluru property tax gap widens as South leads, North lags

Five new city corporations collect under sixty percent overall, with March deadline looming and administrative transition slowing revenue momentum further

When it comes to tax collection, it is diagonally opposite in Benglauru as South City has done well and North the worst. With just weeks left in the financial year, Bengaluru's five city corporations have collectively managed to collect only 57.96% of their property tax target for 2025–26, underscoring a widening gap between projections and actual revenue.

The South corporation has emerged as the best performer so far. Against a target of ₹1,228.85 crore, it has collected ₹745.33 crore, achieving 60.65% of its goal, the highest percentage among all five corporations. Though the margin is narrow, South has maintained steady momentum and currently leads in percentage performance.

At the other end of the spectrum is the North corporation, which has recorded the weakest performance. Against a target of ₹1,242.33 crore, it has mobilised only ₹651.92 crore, translating to 52.48%. This makes North the only corporation hovering just above the halfway mark, indicating significant ground to cover in the final month.

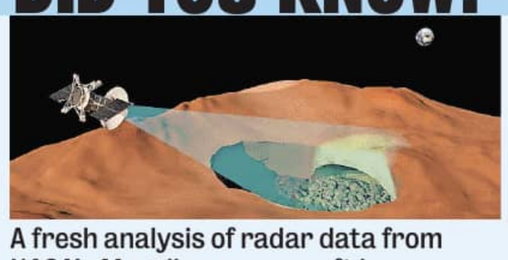
High-rise clusters across the city reflect moderate revenue progress, with several corporations trailing targets despite intensified efforts to boost collections before financial year end.

Close behind South is the East corporation, which has posted the highest absolute collection among the five. It has mobilised ₹1,010.42 crore against a target of ₹1,673.46 crore, achieving 60.38%. While East ranks second in percentage terms, it remains the single largest contributor in terms of revenue volume, having crossed the ₹1,000 crore mark. The West corporation ranks third overall, collecting ₹761.35 crore against a target of ₹1,281.59 crore, achieving 59.41%. Though marginally below the 60%-mark, West remains within striking distance of the top two and reflects fairly consistent collection trends. The Central corporation stands fourth, with ₹724.77 crore collected against a target of ₹1,273.78 crore, reaching 56.90%. While its total collections are comparable to West and South, the percentage shortfall suggests slower progress relative to its assigned target.

South zone tops percentage performance while East brings highest collections, but North trails significantly as overall receipts fall far short of targets compared with last year's stronger figures across Bengaluru

A GBA official said the five corporations together have collected ₹3,893.79 crore against a combined target of ₹6,700 crore, marking a noticeable decline compared to the previous financial year. By mid-February 2024–25, the undivided BBMP had collected ₹4,547 crore within the same jurisdiction, nearly ₹1,500 crore more than this year's tally so far. Although more than ₹2,000 crore was mobilised in the first two months of 2025–26, collections appear to have slowed following the administrative transition from BBMP to the Greater Bengaluru Authority and the formation of five separate corporations. With March being the final opportunity to boost revenue, officials say special drives are planned, though achieving the full target now appears unlikely. Officials remain cautious as revenue gaps could impact civic projects and budgetary planning for years. **— BMB**

DID YOU KNOW?



A fresh analysis of radar data from NASA's Magellan spacecraft has revealed what appears to be a massive underground lava tube on Venus, marking the first subsurface feature detected on Earth's neighbouring planet. Scientists re-examined data collected between 1990 and 1992 using a new analytical method designed to identify underground cavities. The structure lies on the western flank of Nyx Mons, a broad shield volcano in Venus' northern hemisphere, an area marked by numerous surface collapse pits that hint at subsurface voids. The detected lava tube is estimated to be about 1 km wide, with a roof at least 150 meters thick and a cavity reaching roughly 375 meters in height. Researchers believe the structure could extend for several miles, though only a portion was directly observed due to data limitations. Its size exceeds most lava tubes on Earth and those predicted for Mars, aligning more closely with the largest examples seen on the moon. The discovery provides new insight into Venus' volcanic history and internal processes. Upcoming missions like ESA's Envision and NASA's Veritas are expected to further explore the planet using advanced radar systems. — Reuters

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A look at false claims made by the Trump administration as it revokes a key scientific finding

The Claim: Trump claimed the 2009 endangerment finding lacked factual and legal basis, wind energy is the most expensive, climate change harms are a scam, and policies forced electric vehicle mandates nationwide.
Fact: Courts upheld the endangerment finding after Massachusetts v. EPA; scientific evidence supports climate health risks, wind is among cheapest electricity sources, and no federal mandate required Americans to buy electric vehicles.

President Donald Trump's decision to revoke the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) 2009 endangerment finding a key legal foundation for regulating greenhouse gas emissions — has sparked significant controversy, with experts challenging several claims made by Trump and EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin. The endangerment finding was established after the US Supreme Court's landmark 2007 ruling in Massachusetts v. EPA, which determined that greenhouse gases qualify as air pollutants under the Clean Air Act and can be regulated if they endanger public health or welfare. Trump claimed the finding had "no basis in fact" or law, but legal experts say this is incorrect. Ann Carlson, an environmental law professor at the University of California, Los Angeles, noted that the Supreme Court specifically directed the EPA to assess whether greenhouse gases pose such risks, making the 2009 determination a direct outcome of that ruling. Scientific evidence compiled by the EPA at the time remains publicly available, and multiple federal courts have upheld the finding over the past 16 years.

Trump also asserted that wind energy is the "most expensive energy you can get" and claimed that wind development has largely been halted. However, data from the US Energy Information Administration shows that onshore wind is among the cheapest forms of electricity generation, with new projects estimated to produce power at about $30 per megawatt hour. By comparison, new natural gas plants cost around $65 per megawatt hour, while advanced nuclear reactors exceed $80. Offshore wind is more expensive, at roughly $88 per megawatt hour, but does not reflect the broader cost competitiveness of wind power overall.

On public health, Trump dismissed climate change as a "scam" unrelated to health impacts. Scientific research strongly contradicts this claim. Thousands of peer-reviewed studies link climate change to increased mortality and illness through heat waves, extreme weather events such as hurricanes and floods, and worsening air quality from wildfires. A 2021 study published in Nature Climate Change estimated that about 9,700 deaths globally each year are attributable to heat linked to human-caused climate change. Other analyses suggest the health costs amount to at least $10 billion annually.

Zeldin also argued that the endangerment finding enabled federal electric vehicle mandates. Policy experts say there has never been a federal requirement forcing consumers to purchase electric vehicles. While the Biden administration set a non-binding goal for EVs to account for half of new car sales by 2030 and tightened vehicle emissions standards, regulations allowed multiple compliance pathways for automakers rather than mandating a shift to a specific technology. Overall, while revoking the endangerment finding marks a major shift in US climate policy, many of the administration's justifications are disputed by legal precedent, economic data, and established scientific research. **— AP**

As the teams meet for the 36th time, Suryakumar Yadav's team has the upper hand with victories on 21 occasions

WHEN INDIA MEETS SOUTH AFRICA: WHAT HEAD-TO-HEAD RECORD SHOWS

India will start their campaign in the T20 World Cup 2026 Super 8s round against South Africa. The clash between the two finalists of the 2024 World Cup will happen at the Narendra Modi Stadium on Sunday.

India and South Africa are placed in a tough Group A of the Super 8s with two-time champions West Indies and Zimbabwe. All four teams are coming to the contest after being table toppers of their respective groups in the first round.

This will be the 36th time India would face South Africa in the shortest format. Suryakumar Yadav's team has the upper hand when it comes to the overall record. In the 35 matches played between them, India have emerged victorious in 21 occasions while South Africa have won only 13 games. One match has no result.

India's dominance continues in the T20 World Cup also. Both teams have historically played seven matches in the multi-national tournament, in which the defending champions have won five matches, while the Proteas have been able to get only two wins.

South Africa are yet to beat India in a knockout match. Both teams have previously played in the 2014 semi-final and the historic 2024 World Cup final, but the two-time champions won in both matches.

India and South Africa recently met each other in a five-match T20I series played in December last year, where the men in blue beat the 2024 runners-up by 3-1, with one match getting washed out.

Head-to-head record between India and South Africa in T20Is Total Matches Played: 35 India won: 21 South Africa won: 13 No Result: 1 Performance of both teams in their last 5 matches India: W, W, W, W, W South Africa: L, W, W, W, W Squads: India: Suryakumar Yadav (c), Ishan Kishan (wk), Abhishek Sharma, Tilak Varma, Hardik Pandya, Shivam Dube, Rinku Singh, Washington Sundar, Arshdeep Singh, Varun Chakaravarthy, Jasprit Bumrah, Sanju Samson (wk), Mohammed Siraj, Kuldeep Yadav, Axar Patel.

South Africa: Aiden Markram (c), Quinton de Kock (wk), Ryan Rickelton, Dewald Brevis, Tristan Stubbs, Jason Smith, George Linde, Corbin Bosch, Kagiso Rabada, Anrich Nortje, Kwena Maphaka, David Miller, Marco Jansen, Keshav Maharaj, Lungi Ngidi. – IANS

India's captain Suryakumar Yadav (2R) and batting coach Sitanshu Kotak (R) attend a practice session on the eve of their super eights match against South Africa at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on Saturday

Today's match

Sri Lanka V/S England
03.00 pm

India V/S South Africa
07.00 pm

'He covered for us all year, now it's our turn': Suryakumar on Abhishek's poor form

Skipper Suryakumar Yadav has backed opener Abhishek Sharma, who is enduring a lean patch in the ongoing T20 World Cup 2026, as India gear up for their first Super 8s clash against South Africa to be played at the Narendra Modi Stadium on Sunday.

Speaking ahead of the match against the 2024 T20 World Cup runners-up, Suryakumar expressed strong faith in Abhishek's comeback and said that the team management is not worried about the opener's form at all.

"I worry for the people who are worried about Abhishek's form; I worry about them. Why are they so worried about Abhishek's form? But I think about those teams who are going to play against him, now that he has not yet scored a run, you know the rest of the answers." Surya said in the pre-match conference.

"It's a team sport, it keeps going on. Now the team has a requirement that the boy should play with his identity. So he is trying to play. If it happens, then it's fine; if it doesn't, then we are there to cover. Last year, he covered for us fully; now we will cover for him as well," he added.

Abhishek is yet to open his account in the tournament.

–IANS

First Super 8 fixture is a washout!

1. Groundsmen walk on the covers as rain disrupts the start of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 match between New Zealand and Pakistan in Colombo on Saturday; 2. The ground remains fully covered. After rain washed out the match, the teams earned one point each from the abandoned first fixture of the tournament's Super Eight stage

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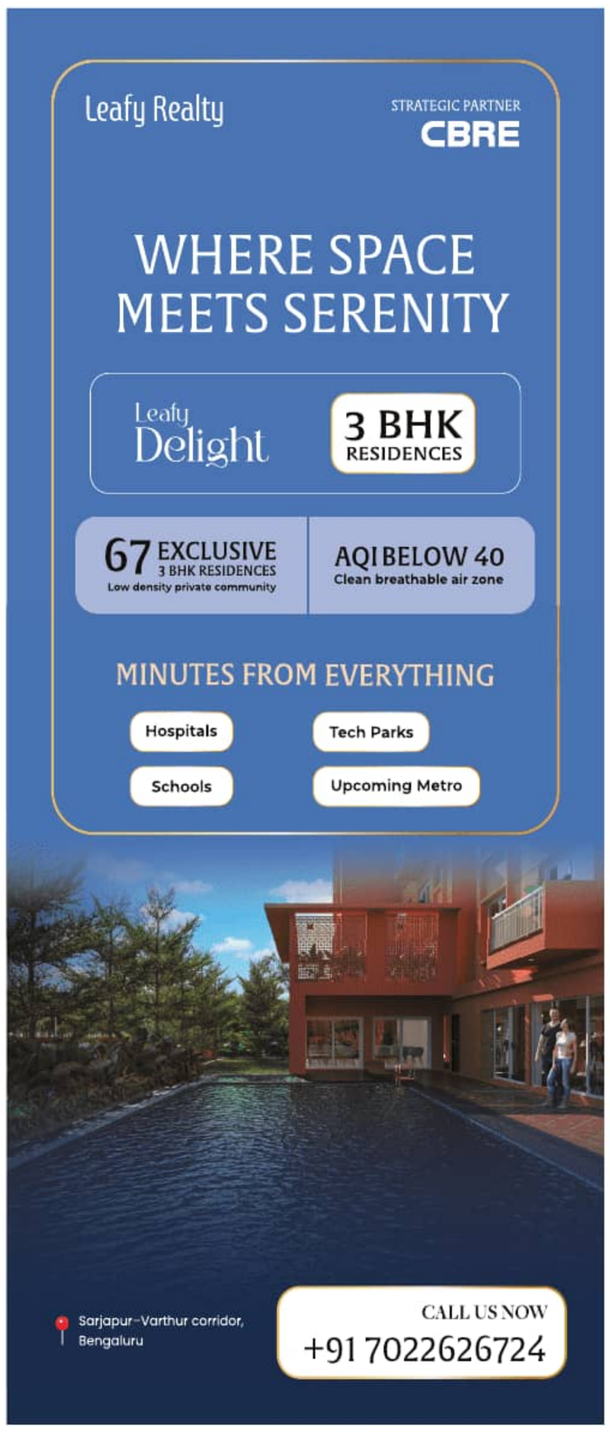

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Site No. 12	3,805.81 Sft (353.70 Sqmts)	14,200 Sft
Site No. 13	2,297.26 Sft (213.50 Sqmts)	11,860 Sft
Total	6,103.07 Sft (567.20 Sqmts)	26,060 Sft

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Life in Coastal Karnataka

MAARNAMI
3.0 RATING ★★★☆☆
- **DIRECTOR** Rishith Shetty
- **ACTORS** Ritvvikk Mathad, Chaithra Achar, Prakash Thuminad, Sonu Gowda, Jyothish Shetty, Suman, Swaraj Shetty
- **CERTIFICATION** U/A
- **Duration** 157 minutes

With Maarnami, Rishith Shetty debuts as a director in Sandalwood. Rishith, who is from the Coastal region, has acted in a few tele serials before this. He has done a good job with his debut and succeeded in showcasing Dasara festivities, traditions, and cultures of people in coastal Karnataka and the importance of huli vesha (tiger dance) during Dasara. The film also shows politics and competition among organisers of tiger dance troupes. The movie is set against the backdrop of a love story with elements such as sentiments, violence, politics, and crime.

Some of the scenes, especially those of bonding between mother and son, their struggles and helplessness, will make audiences emotional.

The movie begins with Jalaja (Sonu Gowda) advising her son Chetu not to venture into the forest but he fails to follow his mother's advice and falls ill. Jalaja prays to the Goddess to save his son from illness and takes a vow to ensure Chetu performs the tiger dance during Dasara. Later, Jalaja dies of tuberculosis. Vasanthanna (Prakash Thuminad) provides shelter to Chetu (Ritvvik Mathad) who becomes an organiser of the huli vesha team. He antagonises Jyothish (Jyothish Shetty), a manager of another tiger dance troupe.

Meanwhile, Deeksha (Chaitra Achar) falls in love with Chetu and wants to marry him but her parents object to it. You have to watch the movie to know what happens to Chetu and Deeksha.

Ritvvik Mathad has acted well in action scenes but looks stoic in romantic scenes. Chaitra Achar, as an young and energetic girl who falls in love with the hero in a jiffy, encourages him to marry her and then craves for another person in a hurry and decides to distance herself from her husband for no reason, is convincing. Jyothish Shetty, as a vicious villain who goes to any extent to eliminate his enemies, is menacing. His dialogue delivery and gestures are emphatic. Swaraj Shetty, Prakash Thuminad, Suman, and Radhika Ramanna have provided good support. Sonu Gowda has acted well.

The movie would have been a good entertainer if its runtime were trimmed by 20 to 30 minutes. The movie is worth a watch for those who want to know about Dasara festivities in Coastal Karnataka.

—Y Maheswara Reddy

Mysterious case of serial murders

SECOND CASE OF SEETHARAM
3.0 RATING ★★★☆☆
- **DIRECTOR** Devi Prasad Shetty
- **ACTORS** Vijay Raghavendra, Gopal Krishna Deshpande, Usha Bhandari, Malathesh, and Sagar Puranik
- **CERTIFICATION** U/A
- **Duration** 120 minutes

This sequel to Vijay Raghavendra-starrer Seetharam Benoy Case No.18 released in 2021 is a gripping watch. Kudos to director Devi Prasad Shetty. The screenplay of Second Case of Seetharam is the star of the show. The director has ensured all the actors follow the script instead of indulging in larger-than-life gimmicks. He manages to retain the suspense till the end of the movie by introducing twists and turns to the narration.

The movie begins with some people questioning Police Inspector Seetharam (Vijay Raghavendra) posted at Anegadde Police Station about a few mysterious murders, including the murder of a police inspector. They ask Seetharam how he will protect the public if he is not able to save a police inspector from the psychopath killer. At this juncture, the director introduces a flashback narrating how the police received information about a dead body that bore 55 stab wounds.

Seetharam suspects Sebastian (Gopal Krishna Deshpande), a teacher who is disturbed by his daughter's love affair. Sebastian approaches Seetharam to stop his daughter's lover visiting his house. Many people complain to Seetharam that Sebastian is suffering from psychological problems and he should be blamed for mysterious murders. Seetharam tries to nab Sebastian but the latter shoots him with the pistol stolen from the police station. You have to watch the movie to know who is behind the mysterious murders.

Vijay Raghavendra, as a police officer, has acted well. His acting has improved a lot when compared to what it was in Seetharam Benoy Case No. 18. Deshpande is convincing. Malathesh and Usha Bhandari provided good support. Sagar Puranik, known for helming the movie Dollu, has proved that he can act too.

Though some of the murder scenes may be difficult to stomach, crime thriller fans will enjoy the film.

—Y Maheswara Reddy

Your Connect

personal

LOST & FOUND

LOST DOCUMENT

I, **KALIANDA APPAYYA,** owner of residential property bearing No. 28, having old BBMP Khatha No.368/354/84/124/2, Bengaluru East City Municipal Corporation Katha No.1088293669, situated at Nagondanahalli Village K.R.Puram Hoblie, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore East Taluk, declare that I have LOST my Original General Power of Attorney DOCUMENT NO. IDENTIFICATION : 0507558 regarding this complaint **(Lost Report No. 2073124/2026)** has been lodged on **20- 02-2026,** So, if anybody finds the aforesaid original documents
Please Contact : **9886323695**

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SHAMEEM TAJ ALSO KNOWN AS SHAMSHAD BEGUM, R/a.#19, 1st. A, Cross, Venkateshpura, behind Sovergen School, Bangalore-45, I, have Changed my name to SHAMEEM TAJ, Vide affidavit dated 19/02/2026 Sworn before Notary: N.Narayana Swamy Bangalore

I, Dhanyashree Balthikumeru Resident of No 11, 10th Main Road, Vasanth Nagar, G Po Post, Bangalore- 560001 have changed my name to DHANYASHREE KISHORE vide affidavit dt: 24.01.2026 sworn before Notary D Sarala Kumari, Bengaluru

I, SOMNATH Resident of G008A, Canopy Calyx Apartment, Kempapura Hebbal, Bangalore- 560024 have changed my name to SOMNATH HUDGI vide affidavit dt: 16.02.2026 sworn before Notary H K Gopalagowda, Bengaluru

I, Anita Birge Patil Ramling W/O, Ramling Birge Patil R/o No. 201,2nd Cross,2nd Block, Hbr Layout, Kalyan Nagar Post, Bengaluru-560043 have changed my name to Anita Patil for all purposes.

I, Eranna, S/o Late Chennaiah, R/at No.17, Dodanna building, Gollarahatti, Vishwaneedam post, Bengaluru- 560091, here by declare that ERANNA and ERAPPA, both the names belongs to me only, vide affidavit dt: 21.02.2025 before notary Devaraja E, Bengaluru.

I, Kamlesh S/o. Tarachand khubchandani ,Flat 202,2nd Floor,131/C,Jb Nilaya,New borewell layout, Hal Old Town, Bengaluru have changed my name from Kamlesh to Kamlesh Kumar Khubchandani for all purposes by an affidavit sworn before L.Gopalakrishna Public Notary dated 13/02/2026

I, SHARAD KUMAR IYENGAR, R/o M-403, ACS Meghana Apartment, 100 Feet Ring Road, Kadirenahalli Park, Banashankari 2nd Stage, Bengaluru 560070 have changed my name to SHARAD KUMAR vide affidavit dated 09-02-2026 before notary H.G. Padmanabha Rao, Bangalore. Both names belong to me.

I, Nizam Uddin Khan S, R/o Sidlaghatta Town Chikkaballapur 562105 Have Changed My Name to Nizam Uddin Khan for All Purposes.

I, Madhusudanababu R G, R/O No. 17, Jai Maruthi Layout, Kumbarahalli, Bangalore, have changed my name to Madhusudan Babu R G for all future purposes

I, VINEET Resident of G008A, Canopy Calyx Apartment, Kempapura Hebbal, Bangalore-560024 have changed my name to VINEET HUDGI vide affidavit dt: 16.02.2026 sworn before Notary H K Gopalagowda, Bengaluru

I Veerappa Basur R/o No 65 Gottigere Extn 3rd Stage BEML Layout RR Nagar Bengaluru-98 Have changed my name to Veeresh S Basur For all the purpose.

I, RENUKA Resident of G008A, Canopy Calyx Apartment, Kempapura Hebbal, Bangalore-560024 have changed my name to RENUKA HUDGI vide affidavit dt: 16.02.2026 sworn before Notary H K Gopalagowda, Bengaluru

I, Narasimha Murthy N S, S/o.Satyanarayan H, Resident at No. 11, 23rd Main Road, 50 Feet Road, Muneshwara Block, Banashankari 3rd Stage, Bangalore-560 085 declare that in my some documents my father wrongly entered as SATYANARAYANA correct name SATYANARAYAN H vide Affidavit date. 20.02.2026 sworn before notary V Anjanappa, Bangalore

I, TABASSUM PARVEEN, R/a. #7 No.1,1st Street Shivajinagar Bangalore-51, I, have Changed my name to TABASSUM, Vide affidavit, dated 19/02/2026 Sworn before Notary: N.Narayana Swamy Bangalore.

I, Bhaghyashri Vilas Choudhary D/o Vilasrao Chaudhary R/o No.75 9th Cross, Nyanappanahalli Main Road,hulimavu,bengaluru-560114. Have Changed My Name to Bhagyashri Vilasrao Chaudhary for All Purposes.

I, GOURI HUDGI Resident of G008A, Canopy Calyx Apartment, Kempapura Hebbal, Bangalore- 560024 have changed my name to GOURI SOMNATH HUDGI vide affidavit dt: 17.02.2026 sworn before Notary H K Gopalagowda, Bengaluru

I, LOKESHA K R S/o. Sri. Chandrashekar, R., Resident at : Srikantalahnapalya, Hebbur, Tumkur-572 120, have changed my name to LOKESH K R vide Affidavit date. 20.02.2026 sworn before notary V Anjanappa, Bangalore

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I, Latha Venkataramappa W/o. Sri. Shivanna S B., Resident at No. 24 B, 1st 'A' Main Road, Dollars Colony, Ashwath Nagar, Bengaluru-560 094 have changed my name to LATHA SHIVANNA vide Affidavit date. 20.02.2026 sworn before notary V Anjanappa, Bangalore

I, RAMESH KUMAR K(K-Kunnath) S/o Ramakrishnan K, R/A.No 156/6S, Pournami, 1st Floor, Bhagavathi Layout, 15th B Cross, Hulimavu, Bannerghatta Road, Bangalore-560076, I here by declare that my name is changed from Ramesh K to RAMESH KUMAR K vide affidavit dated 03/12/2025 sworn before Notary Aravind Patil G.G Blore

I, TEJAS KUMAR. P. S. S/o. Sri. Chandrashekar. R., Resident at No. 94, 2nd Floor, ICHCS Layout, Ward No. 9, Nanjappa Circle Road, Vidyaranyapura Post, Bangalore-560 097, have changed my name to TEJAS KUMAR. C. vide Affidavit date. 20.02.2026 sworn before notary V Anjanappa, Bangalore

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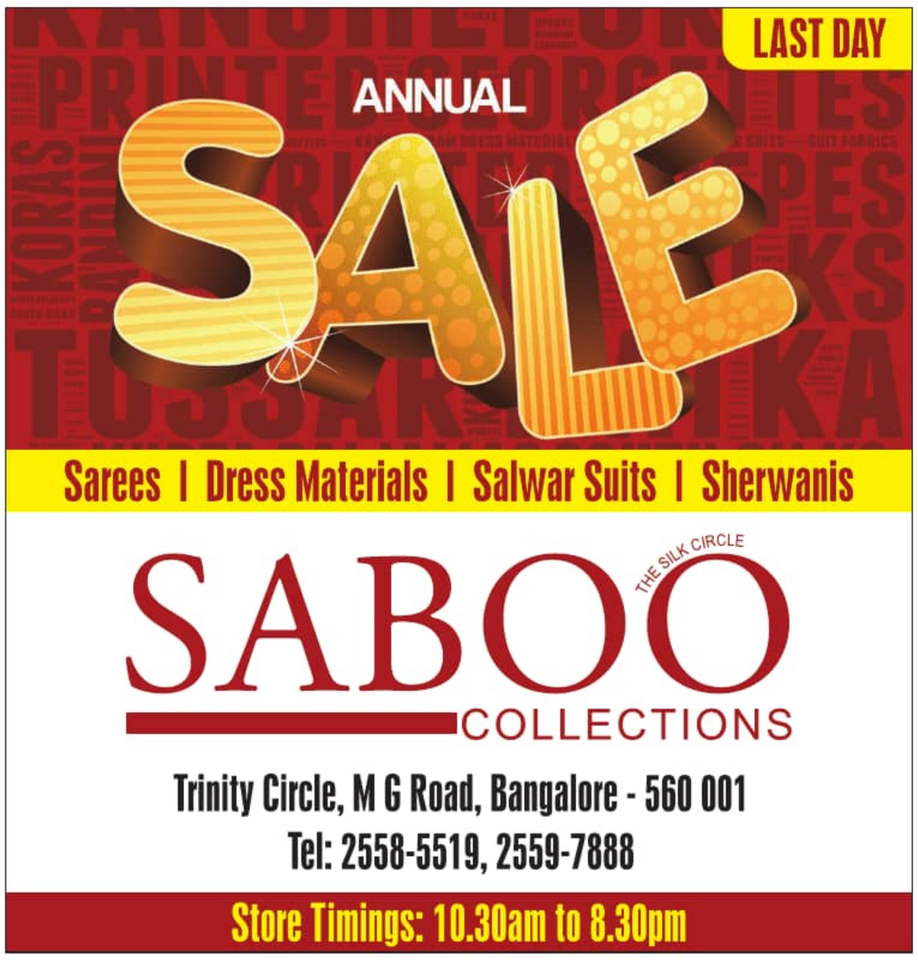

HEALTH TIP: Salmon, mackerel, sardines, and trout are among the best foods for brain health

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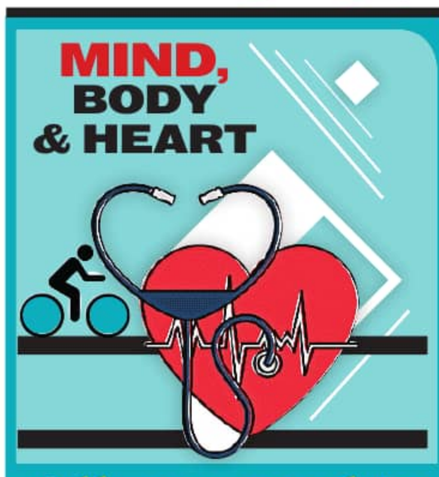


All you need to know about...

Breathing right

When we exercise, we exert our muscles and they need oxygen to burn as fuel. To breathe right, keep in mind the following:
Breathe out during the exertion phase of the exercise, whenever the body feels the maximum stress.
Breathe keeping in mind the pace of the exercise – cardio demands faster breathing while yoga calls for slower, deeper breaths.
Breathe in and out through the nose – breathing through the mouth is not as effective.

Swimming:
While doing the crawl stroke, don't over rotate your head. Just turn your head a little from side to side, inhale the air and exhale into the water through the nose.

Skipping:
Before you begin skipping with a rope, take a breath and then breathe out as you jump up -- this is the exertion stage. Breathe in as you touch the ground. While skipping fast, breathe in on every alternate touchdown and out on every alternate jump.

Running/brisk walk:
One must breathe in and out through the nose. Breathing through the mouth will make you more breathless. Slacken the pace a little to regain your breath whenever the need arises.

Weight training:
Breathe out whenever you are exerting the most. If doing bicep curls, breathe out as you lift the weight and breathe in as you drop back. For calisthenics, breathe out when supporting your weight and in when you drop back.

Yoga:
Deep and even breathing does the trick. If you feel out of breath during yoga, you are not doing it right. Slacken the pace a little—always breathe in before you stretch, and while you stretch (or exert the body) breathe out.

—Femina

WELCOME TO THE FEAST

Recipes that will make the time for fasting and feasting with family extra special

MURGH KE PARCHE

INGREDIENTS
- Boneless Chicken 1 lb

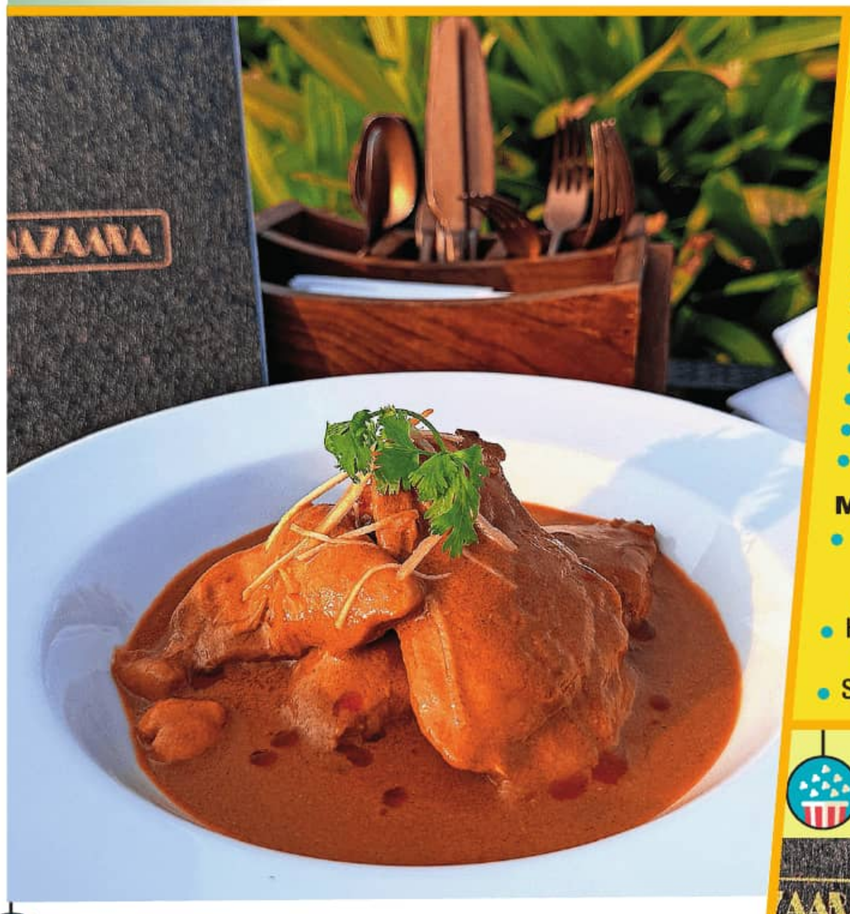
For Marination:
- Yogurt ½ cup
- Cumin powder 1 tsp
- Coriander powder 1 tsp
- Garam Masala ½ tsp
- Red chili powder ½ tsp
- Salt to taste
- Lemon juice 1 tbsp

For Coating
- Breadcrumbs ½ cup
- Grated parmesan cheese (optional) ¼ cup
- Chopped coriander ¼ cup

Marinate 1 lb boneless chicken in:
- 1/2 cup yogurt
- 1 tsp cumin powder
- 1 tsp coriander powder
- 1/2 tsp garam masala
- 1/2 tsp red chili powder
- Salt • 1 tbsp lemon juice

Coat with:
- 1/2 cup breadcrumbs
- 1/4 cup grated parmesan cheese (optional)
- 1/4 cup chopped coriander

METHOD
- Marinate the boneless chicken with yogurt, cumin powder, coriander powder, garam masala, red chilli powder, salt and lemon juice, ensuring the pieces are well coated.
- Allow the chicken to marinate so the flavours are absorbed evenly.
- In a separate bowl, combine breadcrumbs, grated parmesan cheese (optional), and chopped coriander.
- Coat the marinated chicken pieces thoroughly with the breadcrumb mixture.
- Deep fry the chicken until it turns crispy and golden brown.



DESI MURGHI KA SALAN

INGREDIENTS
- Desi chicken, cut into pieces 1 kg
- Medium onions, sliced 2
- Tomatoes, pureed 2
- Ginger-garlic paste 1 tbsp
- Turmeric 1 tsp
- Red chili powder 1 tsp
- Coriander powder 1 tsp
- Garam masala ½ tsp
- Yogurt ½ cup
- Oil or Ghee 2 tbsp
- Salt to taste
- Fresh coriander for garnish

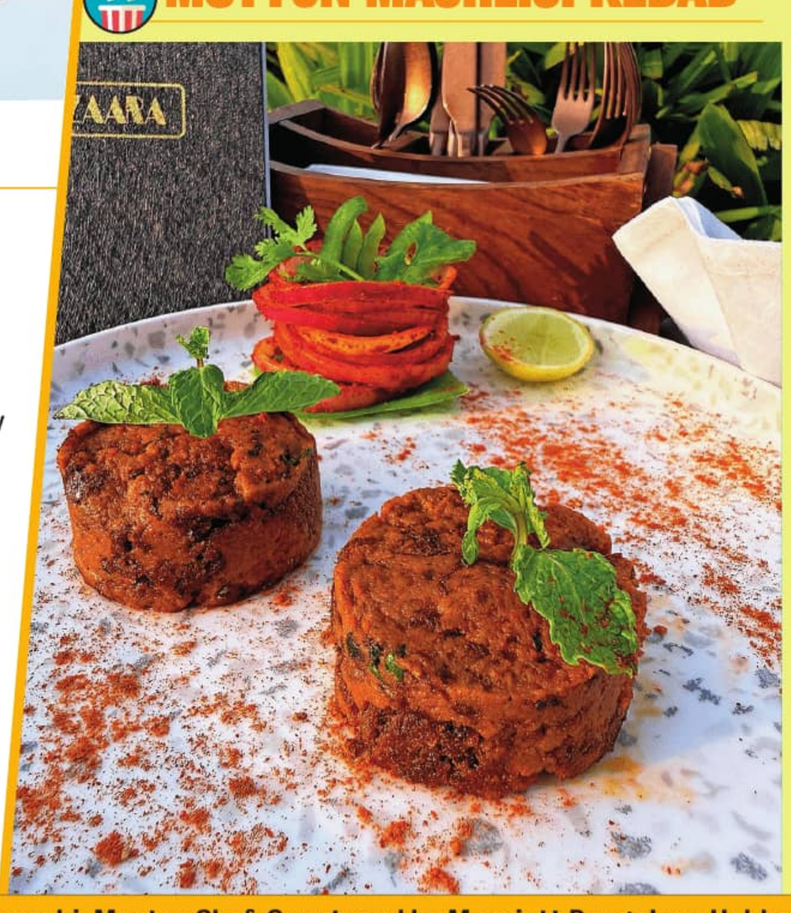
METHOD
- Heat oil in a pan and add sliced onions. Fry it until golden brown
- Add ginger-garlic paste next and sauté.
- Add tomato puree and spices (turmeric, red chili and coriander). Dry roast it till the oil separates.
- Add the chicken pieces, mix thoroughly and cook for 10 minutes
- Pour in the yogurt and a little water then simmer for 20 to 25 minutes until the chicken is tender and well cooked.
- Finish by sprinkling garam masala and garnish with coriander
- Serve hot with rice, roti or naan.

MAHI SAMUNDAR

INGREDIENTS
- Pomfret fish, cleaned 2
- Turmeric 1 tsp
- Red chili powder 1 tsp
- Coriander powder 1 tsp
- Cumin powder ½ tsp
- Garam masala ½ tsp
- Lemon juice ¼ cup
- Oil 2 tbsp
- Salt to taste
- Fresh coriander for garnish

METHOD
- Marinate the fish with spices and lemon juice and set aside for 15 minutes.
- Heat oil in a pan and shallow-fry the fish until golden and evenly cooked.
- Serve hot with salad or rice.

MUTTON MAJHLISI KEBAB



INGREDIENTS
- Mutton, minced 500g
- Large onion, finely chopped 1
- Green chilies, chopped 2
- Ginger-garlic paste 1 tsp
- Cumin powder 1 tsp
- Coriander powder 1 tsp
- Garam masala ½ tsp
- Red chili powder ½ tsp
- Chopped coriander ¼ cup
- Egg, beaten 1
- Salt to taste
- Oil for greasing

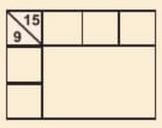
METHOD
- Combine all the ingredients thoroughly, excluding the oil.
- Shape the mixture into oval kebabs.
- Lightly grease your hands and gently flatten the kebabs.
- Grill or shallow-fry them until golden brown and evenly cooked.
- Serve hot with mint chutney or salad.

Recipes by Chef Asif Qureshi, Master Chef, Courtyard by Marriott Bengaluru Hebbal

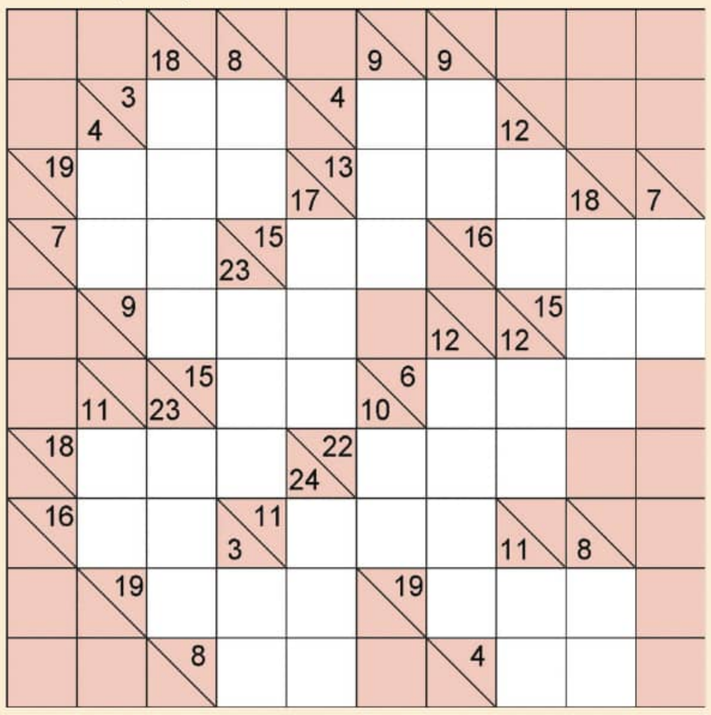
mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com
facebook.com/theBangaloremirror
@BangaloreMirror

Kakuro

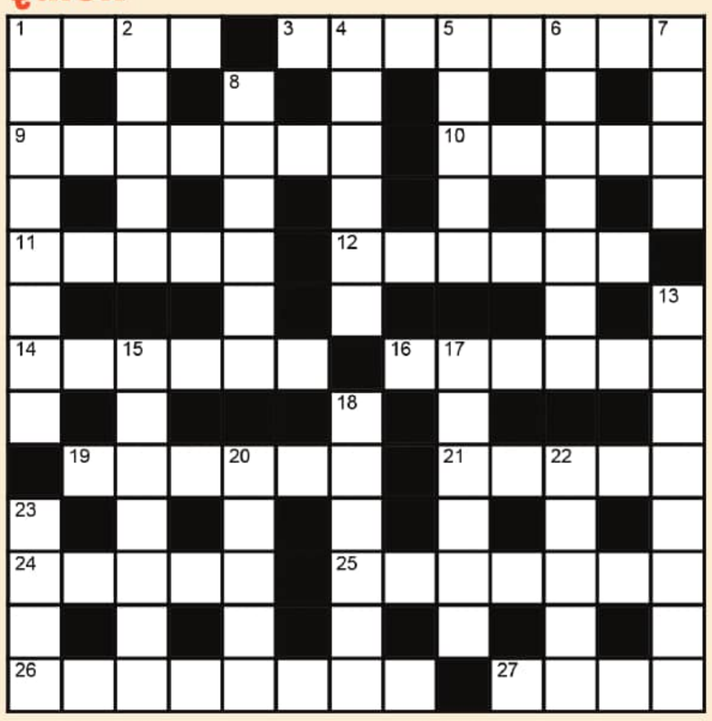
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Outstanding (4)
3 The bus station named after Kempe Gowda is more commonly known by this name (8)
9 Pertaining to fever (7)
10 Sheep-like (5)
11 Vivas (5)
12 Robs or purloins (6)
14 Curriculum (6)
16 Masked; with one's face covered (6)
19 Short and strongly built (6)
21 Burglar (5)
24 Searches thoroughly (5)
25 Presumptively, self-evidently (1,6)
26 Move crabwise (8)
27 Venomous South African viper (4)

DOWN

1 First rate, colloquially speaking? (3-5)
2 Winter coat (5)
4 Press charges (6)
5 French academy (5)
6 Dallied (7)
7 Stage hints (4)
8 State of equilibrium (6)
13 Improving the mind (8)
15 Wild, rabid or savage (7)
17 Uproar or furore (6)
18 Revolve (6)
20 Lawsuits (5)
22 Wishful words (1,4)
23 Deeds (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: A EQUALS G

HW'N EYRWWT KMYU WD WRJJ SKMW UDRN FYHXA KMEEHXRNN; EDORYWT MXU SRMJWK KMOR FDWK IMHJRU.

Linemaro

Are you a terrorist? You are always bombing my heart

Mindchow

Positive anything is better than negative nothing

Joke of the day

I was about to buy a book on hair loss, but the pages kept falling out

Loop

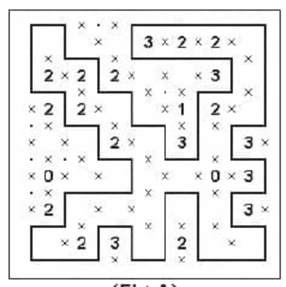
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

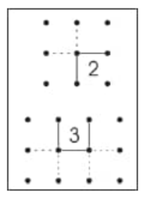
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

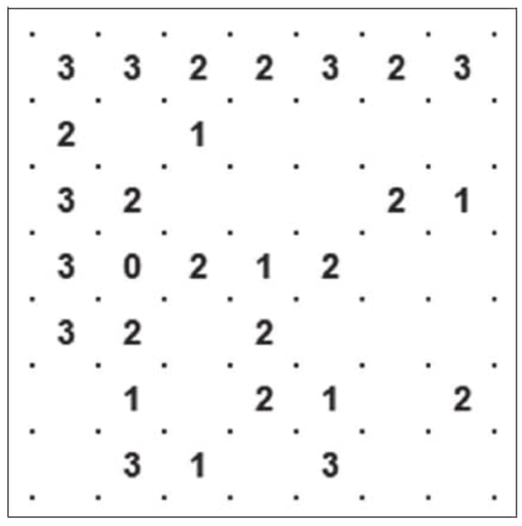
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



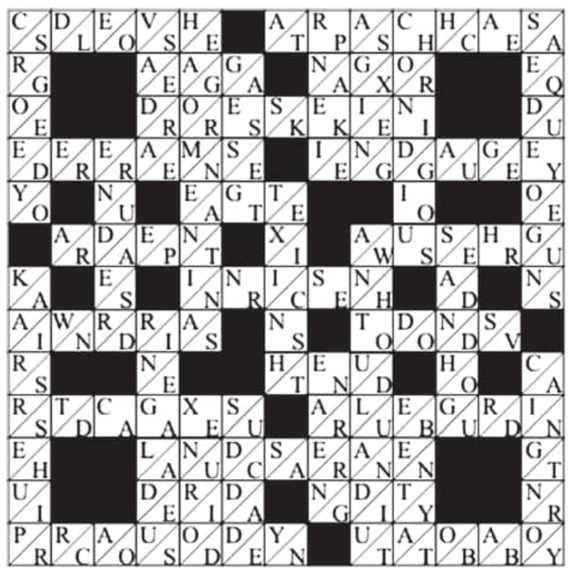
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1	2	3	4	5 H
6				
7				
8				
9				

ACROSS

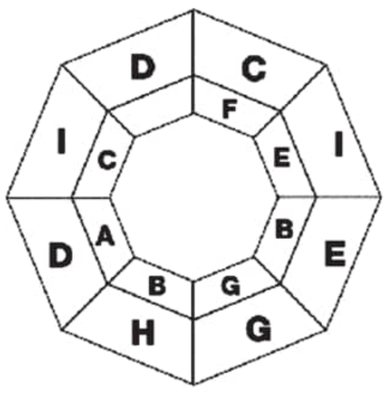
1 Shams; 6 Cowl l;
7 I rice; 8 Ref an;
9 Talon

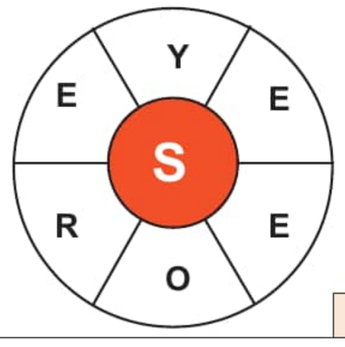
DOWN

1 F wits; 2 I'm roc;
3 Anile; 4 Canes;
5 Or lah

Mensapuzzle

Which letter is missing from the web?





Bull's eye

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

03 Average; **04** Good; **05** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

			2	5			3	
8				9		5		
9						8	7	2
1			4			3		
	7			2			4	
		9			6			5
5	3	4						1
		8		4				3
	2			8	5			

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 13

6 6 7 8

Medium = 18

1 5 5 8

Hard = 31

2 3 7 2

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

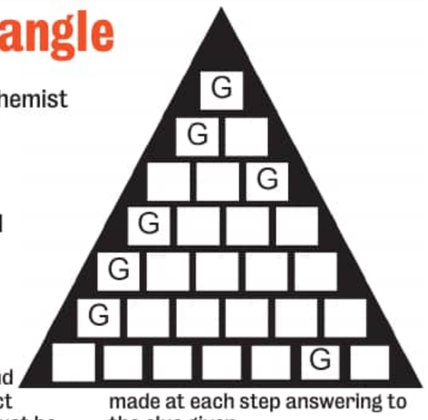
Differences: 1. Paper is longer. **2.** Hair is different. **3.** Man is taller. **4.** Arm of chair is higher. **5.** Desk blotter is wider. **6.** Top of desk is different.

Riddler

I am a world-renowned "symbol". In the English language, if I'm added to a noun, it turns to an adjective (in most cases). If you put horizontal lines through me, I become a currency, but it is not used in many countries. In Spanish, I am a "symbol", but also I am a word. I am used to connect words and phrases. If you watch your School House Rock, I go along with a junction. What am I?

Alpha triangle

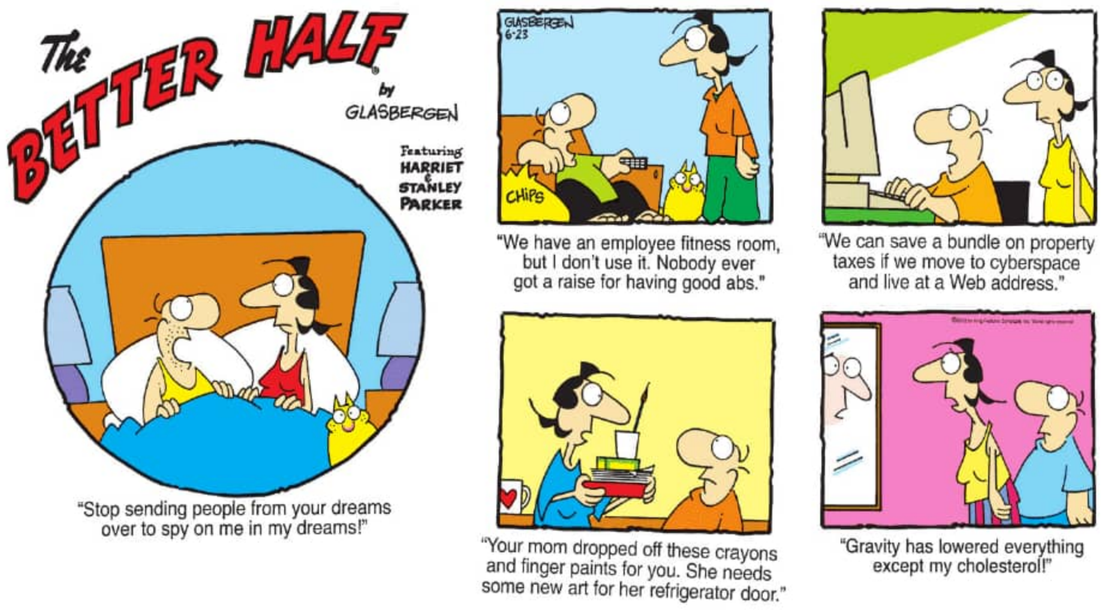
1 7th letter
2 Gallium for the chemist
3 Dawdle
4 Aim
5 Crow over
6 Trattoria treat
7 Electric potential difference



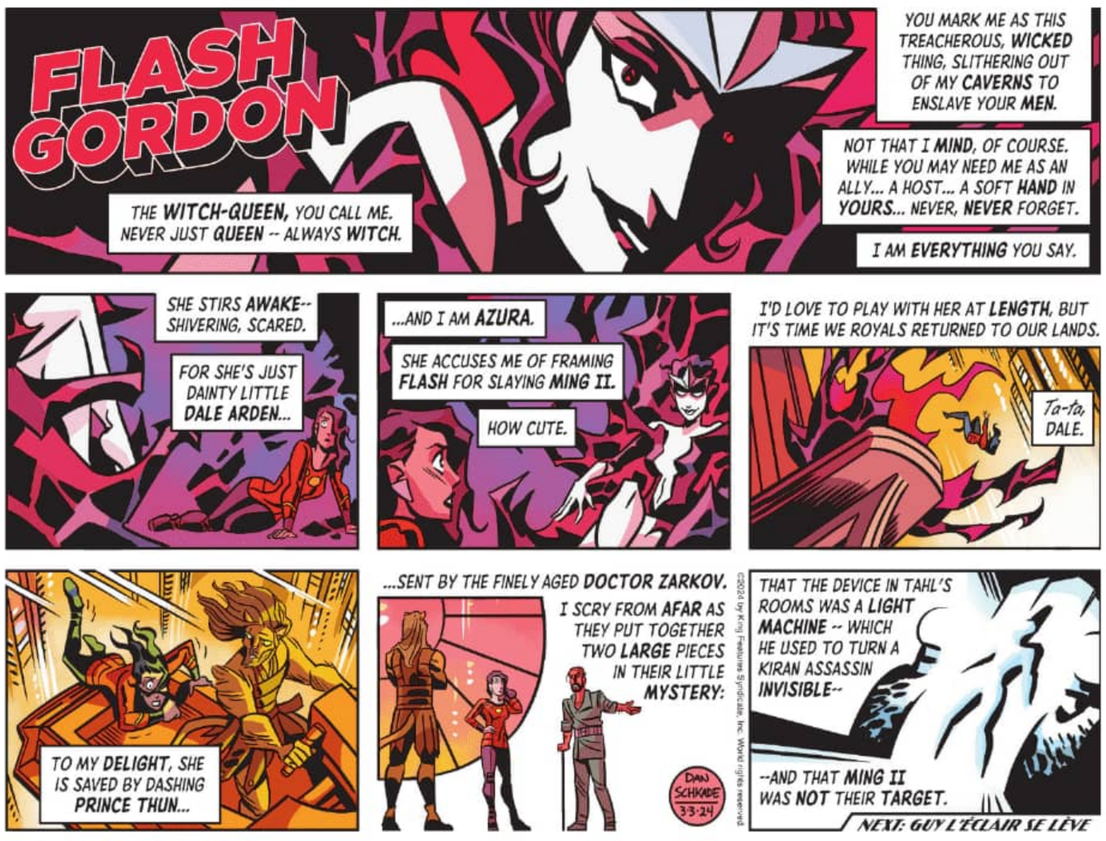
Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

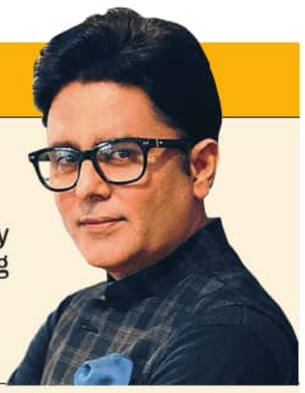

The BETTER HALF
by GLASBERGEN
Featuring HARRIET & STANLEY PARKER
"Stop sending people from your dreams over to spy on me in my dreams!"
GLASBERGEN 6-23
CHIPS
"We have an employee fitness room, but I don't use it. Nobody ever got a raise for having good abs."
"We can save a bundle on property taxes if we move to cyberspace and live at a Web address."
"Your mom dropped off these crayons and finger paints for you. She needs some new art for her refrigerator door."
"Gravity has lowered everything except my cholesterol!"

BABY BLUES™
BY RICK KIRKMAN & JERRY SCOTT
HEY, THE CEREAL LOOKS DIFFERENT TODAY.
LET ME SEE THE BOX.
¡GASP!¡ THIS IS THE STORE BRAND STUFF!!
NO!!
MOM! HOW COULD YOU??
YOU DON'T HAVE TO EAT IT...
PLAIN FLAKES
...I ALSO MADE...
...THIS.
GLORP!
YOU WERE RIGHT. THE KIDS LIKED THE CHEAPER CEREAL.
MOMS KNOW BEST.


FLASH GORDON
THE WITCH-QUEEN, YOU CALL ME. NEVER JUST QUEEN -- ALWAYS WITCH.
YOU MARK ME AS THIS TREACHEROUS, WICKED THING, SLITHERING OUT OF MY CAVERNS TO ENSLAVE YOUR MEN.
NOT THAT I MIND, OF COURSE. WHILE YOU MAY NEED ME AS AN ALLY... A HOST... A SOFT HAND IN YOURS... NEVER, NEVER FORGET.
I AM EVERYTHING YOU SAY.
SHE STIRS AWAKE-- SHIVERING, SCARED.
FOR SHE'S JUST DAINTY LITTLE DALE ARDEN...
...AND I AM AZURA.
SHE ACCUSES ME OF FRAMING FLASH FOR SLAYING MING II.
HOW CUTE.
I'D LOVE TO PLAY WITH HER AT LENGTH, BUT IT'S TIME WE ROYALS RETURNED TO OUR LANDS.
Ta-ta, DALE.
TO MY DELIGHT, SHE IS SAVED BY DASHING PRINCE THUN...
...SENT BY THE FINELY AGED DOCTOR ZARKOV.
I SCRY FROM AFAR AS THEY PUT TOGETHER TWO LARGE PIECES IN THEIR LITTLE MYSTERY:
THAT THE DEVICE IN TAHL'S ROOMS WAS A LIGHT MACHINE -- WHICH HE USED TO TURN A KIRAN ASSASSIN INVISIBLE--
--AND THAT MING II WAS NOT THEIR TARGET.
NEXT: GUY L'ÉCLAIR SE LÈVE

WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR



If it's your birthday today

Your year emphasizes domestic bliss and career steadying. Professional life benefits from a more relaxed, confident approach. In love, a period of harmony brings you closer to your partner. Home improvements or a new addition bring lasting happiness. Travel to rural areas provides a much-needed reset. Financial security is bolstered by a surprise legacy or long-term investment.

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Professional success is within your grasp today. Stay dedicated to your tasks and showcase your skills. Your proactive nature leads to impressive results and recognition from those who matter most.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Financial intuition helps you make smart investments today. Trust your gut when it comes to money. Your practical approach ensures long-term growth and stability for you and your family today

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Clear communication resolves a minor conflict today. Be honest and kind in your interactions. Your ability to listen helps you build stronger, more resilient relationships with your friends and colleagues.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Focus on your spiritual well-being today through meditation. This quiet time provides clarity and peace. You will emerge feeling refreshed and ready to face the world with a positive today.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Creative expression brings you immense fulfilment today. Whether through art or work, let your talents shine. Your unique vision is truly inspiring and will be met with great enthusiasm tonight.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Organization and efficiency are your best friends today. Tackling your to-do list brings a sense of accomplishment. Your hard work ensures that you stay ahead of your many professional responsibilities.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Harmony in your home life brings you joy today. Spend quality time with family and friends. These connections offer the emotional support and happiness you need to thrive every day.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Your inner strength helps you overcome a challenge today. Stay focused on your goals and don't give up. Your resilience is a powerful tool that ensures your ultimate future success.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Optimism and luck are on your side today. Approach your goals with a positive heart. The universe is supporting your efforts, leading to favourable outcomes and very exciting new life.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Practical decisions lead to significant progress today. Stay grounded and focus on what matters most. Your disciplined nature ensures that you are building a very solid and successful future path.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Innovative ideas lead to breakthroughs at work today. Share your unique perspective with your team. Your contributions are highly valued and will lead to exciting opportunities for your career growth.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Deep emotional connections bring you a sense of belonging today. Trust your heart and share your feelings. These authentic bonds provide the nourishment and support your soul truly craves.

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Kishan, Bengaluru

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SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
= -6-[4/(-40)] = -6 + 160 = 154

RIDDLER I am Y. Explanation: When Y is added to a noun, it often makes it an adjective; i.e. Hair+y=hairy, Smell+y=Smelly, etc. When you put two horizontal lines through a Y, it makes the Yen symbol, found in Japan. In the Spanish language, Y is the translation for "and", which is a conjunction. If you watch School House Rock, they do a whole skit on Conjunction Junction.

BULL'S EYE
EYESORE, rose, rosy, seer, sore

FAST FIVE

S	M	A	S	H
W	I	L	C	O
I	C	I	E	R
F	R	E	N	A
T	O	N	A	L

STRIKE OUT

C	L	O	V	E		T	R	A	C	H	E	A		
R		E	G	G		A	G	O				Q		
E		D	O	E	S	K	I	N				U		
D	R	E	A	M	S		E	N	G	A	G	E		
O		N		A	T	E		O				O		
	A	D	E	N		X		W	U	S	H	U		
A		E	I	R	I	S	H		A		S			
I	N	D	I	A		S	O	D	D	S				
R		N			T	E	D		H		A			
S	T	A	G	E	S		A	U	B	U	R	N		
H		L	U	C	A	R	N	E				G		
I		E	R	A		N	I	T				R		
P	R	O	S	O	D	Y		T	A	B	B	Y		

QUICK

S	I	D	E	S	T	E	P		B	E	R	G		
T		E		E		T		Y		P		N		
C	O	M	B	S		A	P	R	I	O	R	I		
A		A		A		R		C		H		Y		
	S	T	O	C	K	Y		T	H	I	E	F		
H		N				G		U				I		
C	O	U	R	S	E		H	O	O	D	E	D		
T				I		E				E				
O	R	A	L	S		S	T	E	A	L	S			
N		K		A		U		L		F		S		
O	Y	R	E	T	I	C		O	V	I	N	E		
U		A		S		C		C		R		U		
Q		G	G	E		A	G	O				R		
	T	O	P	S		M	A	J	E	S	T	I	C	

MENSA PUZZLE
A. Using the numerical values of the letters, each set of four diagonally opposite letters equals 19.

QUOTE UNCODE
It's pretty hard to tell what does bring happiness; poverty and wealth have both failed.

SUDOKU

6	2	1	3	8	5	4	9	7
7	9	8	1	4	2	6	5	3
5	3	4	9	6	7	2	8	1
2	4	9	8	3	6	7	1	5
3	7	6	5	2	1	9	4	8
1	8	5	4	7	9	3	2	6
9	5	3	6	1	4	8	7	2
8	1	2	7	9	3	5	6	4
4	6	7	2	5	8	1	3	9

ALPHA TRIANGLE
G, Ga, Lag, Goal, Gloat, Gelato, Voltage.

GO FIGURE
Easy
6 - 7 + 6 + 8 = 13
Medium
5 + 8 x 1 + 5 = 18
Hard
2 x 2 x 7 + 3 = 31

LOOP

KAKURO

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Love in the Seventies

SARALA SUBBARAO

3.0 RATING ★★★☆☆

- **DIRECTOR** Manju Swaraj
- **ACTORS** Ajai Rao, Misha Narang, Rangayana Raghu, Veena Sunder, Vijay Chendur, Sangeeta
- **CERTIFICATION** U/A
- **Duration** 130 minutes

The movie Sarala Subbarao is inspired by a novel written by Triveni. The movie is set against the backdrop of 1971. Director Manju Swaraj transports audiences to that era when emotions and values were given utmost importance.

The movie begins with an announcement on the radio about the ongoing war between India and Pakistan. The next scene is Subbarao (Ajai Rao), an English lecturer, taking a class at Maharaja College in Mysuru. Subbarao narrates the story of Othello to students. Later, he meets Chemistry lecturer (Vijay Chendur) and narrates how he met Sarala (Misha Narang) at the hospital where his sister (Sangeetha) and her relatives are admitted and he falls in love with Sarala. Subbarao marries Sarala and they live as a happy, loving family. But tragedy strikes when Sarala is diagnosed with stomach cancer. The doctor advises Subbarao to take care of Sarala as her days are numbered. You have to watch the movie to know what happens to Sarala and Subbarao.

Ajai Rao, as an affectionate and loving husband, is at his best. He deserves appreciation for agreeing to essay such a role that has no scope for heroism. Ajai Rao and Misha Narang are equally good in the romantic scenes. Misha Narang, as a glutton who even steals chocolate from a child and eats a kesari bath, meant for both, without leaving any for Ajai Rao, is convincing. Rangayana Raghu, Veena Sundar, Sangeetha and Chitkala Biradar have provided good support. Vijay Chendur, as a Chemistry lecturer, and Raghu Ramanakoppa, as a principal, have tried their best to tickle audiences' funny bones.

Ajneesh Lokanath has scored lilting music and songs are melodious. Cinematographer Pradeep Padma Kumar has done a good job behind the camera.

The movie is worth a watch for those who like retro themes and crave to go back in time.

—Y Maheswara Reddy

Action-packed drama

ALPHA: MEN LOVE VENGEANCE

2.5 RATING ★★½☆☆

- **DIRECTOR** Vijay Nagendra
- **ACTORS** S Hemanth Kumar, Gopika Suresh, Ayaana, Achyuth Kumar, Manasi Sudhir, Balu Nagendra
- **CERTIFICATION** U/A
- **Duration** 144 minutes

Vijay Nagendra's third film as director has all ingredients such as romance, action, emotions and the bond between father and son. The first half of the movie is filled with sentiments while the post-intermission is full of action. The movie is overcrowded with actors, but the director has managed to get the best out of everyone.

The movie begins with a scene of youngsters fighting among themselves while playing cricket. Police arrive and take them the station. Police Inspector Shakti Prasad (Achyuth Kumar) wants his son Arjun (Hemanth Kumar) to become an IPS officer but the latter wants to be an entrepreneur. The focus then shifts to Rayalaseema in Andhra Pradesh where Mangal (Ramesh Indira), a drug peddler, and his sons Kaali (Balu Nagendra) and Vaaji (Hemanth Sushil), eliminate opponents ruthlessly. In Bengaluru, police get information that peddlers are bringing in drugs worth crores of rupees into the city. Arjun meets Akanksha (Gopika Suresh) in a peculiar situation and they fall in love. Later, Arjun realises Akanksha has other ideas. At the same time, Shakti Prasad is injured in an attack by Mangal and Arjun decides to find out about the gang. Watch the film to know what happens to Shakti Prasad and whether Arjun fulfills the goal set by his father.

Hemanth Kumar, who debuts as a hero in Sandalwood, is good in action scenes but needs to bring depth to emotional and romantic scenes. Gopika Suresh and Ayaana look beautiful and have essayed the characters well. Achyuth Kumar, as an honest police officer and concerned father, has acted well. Balu Nagendra, as a ruthless killer, walks away with all honours.

Action-lovers can enjoy this film.

—Y Maheswara Reddy

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